

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14400 131659Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 PA-02 CU-04 INR-07 PRS-01 /028 W

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R 131504Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS MOSCOW 14400

USIA FOR IPS/PO, IBS, IEU; STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV;  
P&C LENINGRAD; FOR P&C'S; LONDON FOR RRU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN UR

SUBJECT: ELECTION COVERAGE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 13874 (B) GENEVA 6615

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS  
CHIEF AT STATE COMMITTEE FOR TV-RADIO, ACTING P&C  
COUNSELOR DISCUSSED COVERAGE OF US ELECTIONS BY SOVIET  
TV AND RADIO. KOROLEV SAID IDEA OF LOCAL ELECTION COVER-  
AGE MOST INTERESTING. EMBOFF SUGGESTED SEVERAL POSSIBLE  
EVENTS WHICH EMBASSY COULD FACILITATE: "REAL-TIME" MEET-  
ING WITH RESULTS POSTED AS RECEIVED VIA WIRE SERVICES AND  
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN  
JOURNALISTS; LOCATION WHERE SOVIET AND AMERICAN JOURNA-  
LISTS COULD "DROP-IN" ON NOVEMBER 3 TO TALK ABOUT RE-  
SULTS; MORE FORMAL MEETING EVENING OF NOVEMBER 3 WITH  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14400 131659Z

PRESENTATIONS BY VISITING US SPECIALISTS. IN SPITE OF

EMBOFF SUGGESTION THAT TIME DIFFERENCE AND LACK OF "INSTANT ANALYSIS" BY SOVIET MEDIA MIGHT MAKE LATTER EVENTS MORE ATTRACTIVE, KOROLEV SEEMED INTRIGUED BY IDEA OF EVENT HELD CONCURRENTLY AS RESULTS RECEIVED. HE SAID SOVIET TV MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS FROM US TELEVISION ELECTION COVERAGE. (COMMENT: CONSIDERING COSTS AND TIME DIFFERENTIAL, WE DOUBT LIVE TV COVERAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE. REQUEST USIA DETERMINE, IF POSSIBLE AT THIS DATE, IF SOVIETS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT SATELLITE COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS.) AS USUAL, KOROLEV SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS IDEA WITH COMMITTEE OFFICIALS BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS. EMBOFF STATED THAT EMBASSY CAPABILITIES QUITE LIMITED BUT WE PLEASED WITH STATE COMMITTEE'S INTEREST IN POSSIBLE COLLABORATION.

2. EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED IDEA OF ELECTION NIGHT WITH NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AND FOUND VARYING DEGREES OF INTEREST AMONG BOTH SOVIETS AND AMERICANS. NEVERTHELESS, KOROLEV'S INITIAL REACTION IS ENCOURAGING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST ELECTION BOARD OFFERED IN CM-957.

3. EMBASSY AWARE THAT RECRUITING TOP-LEVEL POLITICAL EXPERT FOR ELECTION PERIOD VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF SOVIET RESPONSE TO STILL UNDETERMINED EVENT, WE ARE NOT SEEKING WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITY AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USIA/DEPT, TENTATIVELY EXPLORING AVAILABILITY OF SPECIALISTS WHO COULD OPERATE IN INFORMAL "ELECTION CENTER" ATMOSPHERE, GIVING RUNNING COMMENTARY ON ELECTION TO BOTH US AND SOVIET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, AND ALSO OFFER MORE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF ELECTION PROCESSED IN LECTURE FORMAT.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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